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Beiträge zu Aristoteles Poetik von Johannes Vahlen. Neudruck besorgt von HERMANN SCHÖNE. Leipzig. Berlin, 1914. Pp. viii+362.

In view of the results accomplished during the last half-century in all lines of classical philology, a new edition at this time of almost any work in the field of classical scholarship published fifty years ago would furnish occasion for some surprise. But when it is concerned with the interpretation of Aristotle's *Poetics*, a work that has been so carefully studied by a long line of distinguished scholars, the confidence of the editor in the value of his undertaking is so great as to amount to a challenge.

Vahlen's *Beiträge* was published originally in 1865, and the present edition by Schöne shows absolutely no change in the text or notes on the text. Vahlen himself had contemplated a revision of the work, we are told in the introduction, but as he had forbidden all use of his notes, the present edition differs from the original only in certain mechanical changes and additions intended to make the work of greater value to the student. The *Anmerkungen*, originally appended to each of the four books into which the work is divided, are more conveniently placed together at the close of the book, an index of proper names and another of passages quoted from Greek and Latin authors are added, and in the margin of the text are placed references to volume and page of the *Sitzungsberichte der Wiener Akademie*, in which the *Beiträge* first appeared. At the head of each page is given the chapter of the *Poetics* with which the text deals, a more convenient designation often than the paging of Bekker, which is found in the body of the text. A list of the works of Vahlen on Aristotle, a brief table of contents, and an occasional reference in the text to a later edition of some article referred to there complete the list of points in which this edition differs from the one published almost exactly fifty years before.

The name Vahlen is well known to all students of the *Poetics*. It was he who established beyond all question the superiority of the Paris manuscript, and the appearance of his *Beiträge* in 1865 marked an epoch in the modern study of Aristotle. Since the work is so well known and its results are embodied in all modern editions of the *Poetics*, it seems superfluous to review it in detail. The best that the reviewer can do, perhaps, is to indicate in general outline for those who are not specialists what the book is, and how far it seems to be of present and permanent value for the student of Aristotle.

The *Beiträge* is a close and detailed examination of the *Poetics* based upon sound textual considerations, in the attempt to discern and make clear the meaning of the author at every step. It is in the form of a running commentary, often retarded by pages of close reasoning upon the interpretation of doubtful passages, illuminated frequently by pertinent quotations from the *Rhetoric* or other works of Aristotle. There are many questions suggested by the *Poetics*, some of which will probably never be answered beyond possibility of revision, questions as to the authenticity of the text, as to lacunae, trans-

positions, and interpolations. Here and there are baffling allusions to previous statements whose reference is far from clear. To the solution of all these problems Vahlen applied himself with a critical judgment so keen, and at the same time so cautious, that in spite of all the efforts of later scholars, the *Beiträge* still remains one of the best expositions of this much-studied work, and few of the conclusions that its author reached have been disproved, though some have not found general acceptance. Among the interpretations of Vahlen that were of special interest to the reviewer, because differing more or less from those commonly put forth, may be mentioned his discussion of the meaning of εἶδη, 1450 a13, as "types" rather than "elements," as commonly translated; his treatment of the perplexing passage 1455 b32 ff., where the general assumption of a lacuna has made it a matter of guesswork to determine the fourth of the kinds of tragedy enumerated by Aristotle; and his interpretation of the term περιπέτεια, chap. 11, which he defines as "reversal of intention," that is, when the unexpected thing arises from an action distinctly intended to produce the opposite effect. The exact meaning of this last term is still a matter of controversy, but Vahlen's view has found supporters in Germany and England. It is discussed quite fully by Butcher in his *Theory of Poetry*, pp. 329 ff., and by Bywater in his note on this passage.

In conclusion it may be said that the present-day student hardly needs to read the *Beiträge* to become acquainted with what modern scholarship has achieved in interpreting the *Poetics*, including the work of Vahlen himself. All modern editions include in their critical apparatus the conjectures of Vahlen, and no commentator ignores his interpretations. By comparing a list of the passages or words discussed by Vahlen with the notes in Bywater's edition, the reviewer found that every one of importance was referred to. In Butcher's edition everything that is in point for his discussion finds a place in the notes, and probably the same thing is true of other standard editions. The student of Aristotle's *Theory of Poetry* cannot proceed far without reaping the benefit of much that Vahlen has done, but on the other hand there is much in the *Beiträge* itself that repays careful reading, and to the close student of Aristotle Schöne has undoubtedly done a service in editing the *Beiträge* with a clearer type and with the improvements and additions indicated.

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Latin Satirical Writing Subsequent to Juvenal. By ARTHUR H. WESTON. A thesis presented to the faculty of the Graduate School of Yale University in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Lancaster, Pa.: New Era Printing Co., 1915. Pp. 165.

This dissertation is very interesting and readable. Dr. Weston has done a good piece of work. A ten-page introduction clears the ground. Only